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April 08, 2010

SIHA SAPA

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325 Washington, DC 20554

Re: Application of Standing Rock Telecom for ETC Designation.

**OOHENUMPA** 

To The Federal Communications Commission:

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (hereafter "CRST" or "Tribe"), stands proudly behind the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (hereafter "CRSTTA"). The CRSTTA was established by the CRST in 1958 and is a pioneer in the telecommunications industry. Perhaps more significant is the fact that the CRSTTA is the oldest tribally-owned telecommunications service provider in the United States. Under the tribal ordinance establishing the CRSTTA, the company is authorized to provide telecommunications services everywhere within the exterior boundaries of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, as described in the Act of March 2, 1889, § 4, 25 Stat. 888.

The CRST understands and empathizes with the need for the CRSTTA to safeguard its business interests. The Tribe is aware that the CRSTTA requested a clarification of Standing Rock Telecommunications Inc. (hereafter "SRTI") petition to redefine the study areas within Standing Rock Indian Reservation's boundaries to help CRSTTA better understand and navigate the business effects of SRTI's application for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") serving Standing Rock tribal lands.

Still, the CRST hereby states its strong support for its sister Tribe, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (hereafter "SRST") in its efforts to empower its members through development of its telecommunications company SRTI and looks forward to working closely with the CRSTTA, the SRST and SRTI.